



October 5, 2005

Disaster News

Marengo County Declared Eligible for FEMA Assistance

MONTGOMERY, AL.—Residents of Marengo County are now eligible to apply for various forms of state/federal individual assistance to recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today.

The various Individual Assistance (IA) programs include financial assistance to pay for temporary housing, emergency repairs or rebuilding, rental aid, and individual and household grants to cover serious unmet needs. Low-interest disaster loans are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for uninsured and underinsured damage to homes, personal property and businesses.

Senior Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Bolch said the assistance was approved based on a review of damage data gathered by federal and state disaster recovery officials. The county was previously declared eligible for Public Assistance infrastructure reimbursement last month.

Bolch said that a mobile Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) would be dispatched to Marengo County to allow residents and displaced evacuees to meet face-to-face with recovery specialists about their disaster needs. The DRC is scheduled to open at noon Monday, October 10 at the Linden National Guard Armory, Fort Hill-McManus-Boggs, 2400 E. Coats Ave., Hwy 28 in Linden. The center will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. thereafter, with a closing date set for close-of-business Saturday, October 15.

Affected residents and business owners are urged to apply for assistance by calling the toll-free registration number 800-621-FEMA (3362), open 24-hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Those with a speech or hearing impairment may call (TTY) 800-462-7585. Internet registration is available online at <http://www.fema.gov>.

The counties eligible for IA program aid since President Bush first declared the Gulf Coast region of Alabama a federal disaster area on August 29 are: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Mobile, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa and Washington.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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